GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:336
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
SUBSTANDARD MINERAL WATER
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `sub-standard mineral water` appearing in the Dainik Jagran, dated October 3, 2001;

(b) whether the mineral water being sold in various parts of the country, especially at railway stations and in the Capital, is generally of substandard quality;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against those engaged in selling plain water in the name of mineral water?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 336 FOR 12.12.2001.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) : As per information received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Ministry of Railways, the position is as under:

Sl. No	Year	No. of Samples of Mineral Water tested	No. of samples of Mineral Water Found Adulterated
1. Railways	1999-2000	3069	292
	2000-2001	3065	245
2. Govt. of NCT of Delhi	1999-2000	35	3
	2000-2001	18	1

The prosecutions are launched in the court under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act against the products found adulterated.

The standards for mineral water have since been revised. Further, this product is now compulsorily to be manufactured, sold or exhibited for sale only under the certification mark of Bureau of Indian Standards for which manufacturers have to get a licence form the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). This will improve the quality of this product.

Upto now, 325 licences have been issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards for manufacture of Packaged Drinking water. Only three manufacturers have taken the licence to manufacture and sale of Natural Mineral water in the country. One manufacturer in France has been issued licence to manufacture natural mineral water for marketing in India.

With the above scheme there is a drastic reduction in the number of manufacturers of Mineral water.

In addition to the compulsory certification scheme of BIS, these products are tested under the PFA Act, 1954 by the State/UT Governments and if such samples are found to be adulterated, prosecutions are launched in such cases under the provisions of PFA Act, 1954.